

**For  
Special  
Ed**

**Mexican American War  
& Battle of the Alamo**

Special Needs for Special Kids





*This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, and loves the sound of piano keys. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!*

## Table of Contents

Worksheet pages	Title
4-25	Mexican-American War
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*This unit contains over 100 pages of material. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.*

# Mexican American War Lesson Plan

## Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
  - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
  - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
  - Make one set for each student and also one for the teacher to use in I Spy games
- Timeline cards
  - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
  - For additional ideas on how to use these, go to:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/06/13/making-a-life-sized-timeline/>

## Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

## Teaching Tips

1. *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  - a. For more info, read more here:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. *Make your own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
  - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs

## Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards intro</li><li>• Circle map</li></ul>	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards cut and paste</li><li>• Sudoku puzzle</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Timeline activity</li><li>• Circle map</li></ul>	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Matching activity</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Timeline activity</li><li>• Color map</li></ul>	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Close worksheet</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Timeline activity</li><li>• Timeline cut and paste</li></ul>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Close worksheet</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Timeline activity</li><li>• Writing Prompt</li></ul>	10	Assessment

The lesson plans contain:

A quick look at what you will do each day

## Day 2

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li><li>• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• book</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Vocabulary cards I Spy Game (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determine how many cards your students can handle in front of them. This can vary, some students may be able to have all the cards, so may only be able to handle a field of 3-5</li><li>• Discuss relevant points on the card<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ You can also play this game in this manner having them find the symbol on their vocabulary board</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vocabulary cards (student set and teacher set)</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Large Timeline Cards (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pass the cards out to the students and have them arrange themselves in the correct order<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ You can put index cards with the date on the floor ahead of time, so they just have to find the card that matches the date on their flashcard</li></ul></li><li>• Have each student step forward as you talk about their card</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large timeline cards</li></ul>
Circle map review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the worksheet completed yesterday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worksheet completed yesterday</li></ul>
Circle map (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do the circle map on the Mexican American War</li><li>• Choose the best version depending on the learning level of your student.</li><li>• One circle map is errorless and one circle map contains wrong answers students will have to set aside</li><li>• Make connections to the book as necessary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worksheet</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Glue</li></ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student shares their finished maps with the group using the communication method of their choice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed worksheets</li><li>• Communication devices</li></ul>

The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!



Back in 1744, the Alamo had been built in Texas. An **alamo** was the name for an old Spanish church built by missionaries in order to bring Christianity to the Native Americans.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

On May 13, 1846, the United States declared war against Mexico in a fight to keep control of Texas. The war would last for 2 years and is now known as the **Mexican-American War**.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

There is a 22 page book with this unit using simple text and photos.

It comes in a pdf version as well as a voice recorded powerpoint (so you don't have to print it out.)

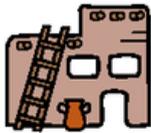
## Louisiana Purchase

Large area in central US that was sold to the US by Napoleon for \$15 million .



## alamo

Spanish church built by missionaries to spread Christianity.



## Santa Anna

Head of the Mexican government and led troops in battle of Alamo and Mexican-American War.



## missionaries

Religious people sent to a place to spread the idea of Christianity.



## Battle of Alamo

2-week battle in Texas. Mexico won and all the Texan soldiers were killed.



## Mexican American War

War to take Texas away from Mexico and make it part of the United States.



## James K Polk

President of the US during American War.



## Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Signaled the end of the Mexican American War, declaring Texas free and the Rio Grande as the border.

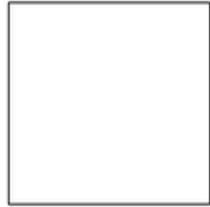


There are 9 vocabulary cards that come in color and black and white.

Included are suggestions for group activities to do with these each day.

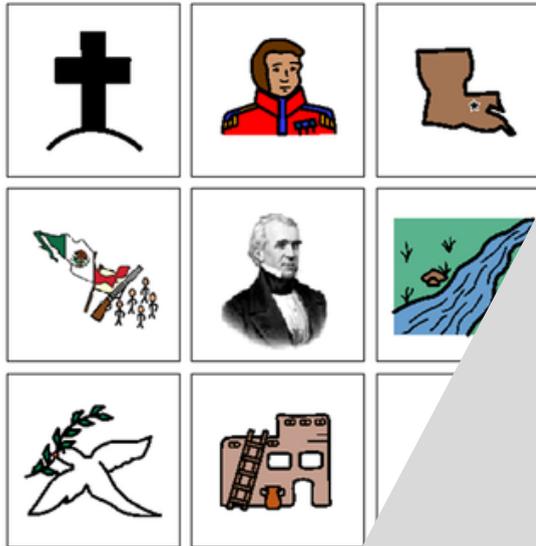
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## Battle of Alamo



## James K Polk



## Mexican American War



## Treaty of Guadalupe Hida



War to take Texas away from Mexico and make it part of the United States.

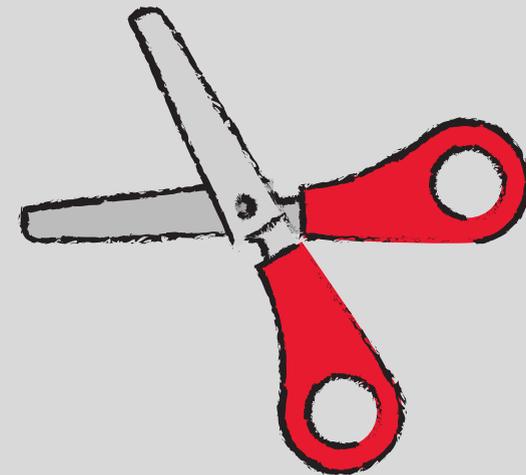
Main river that separates Texas from Mexico.

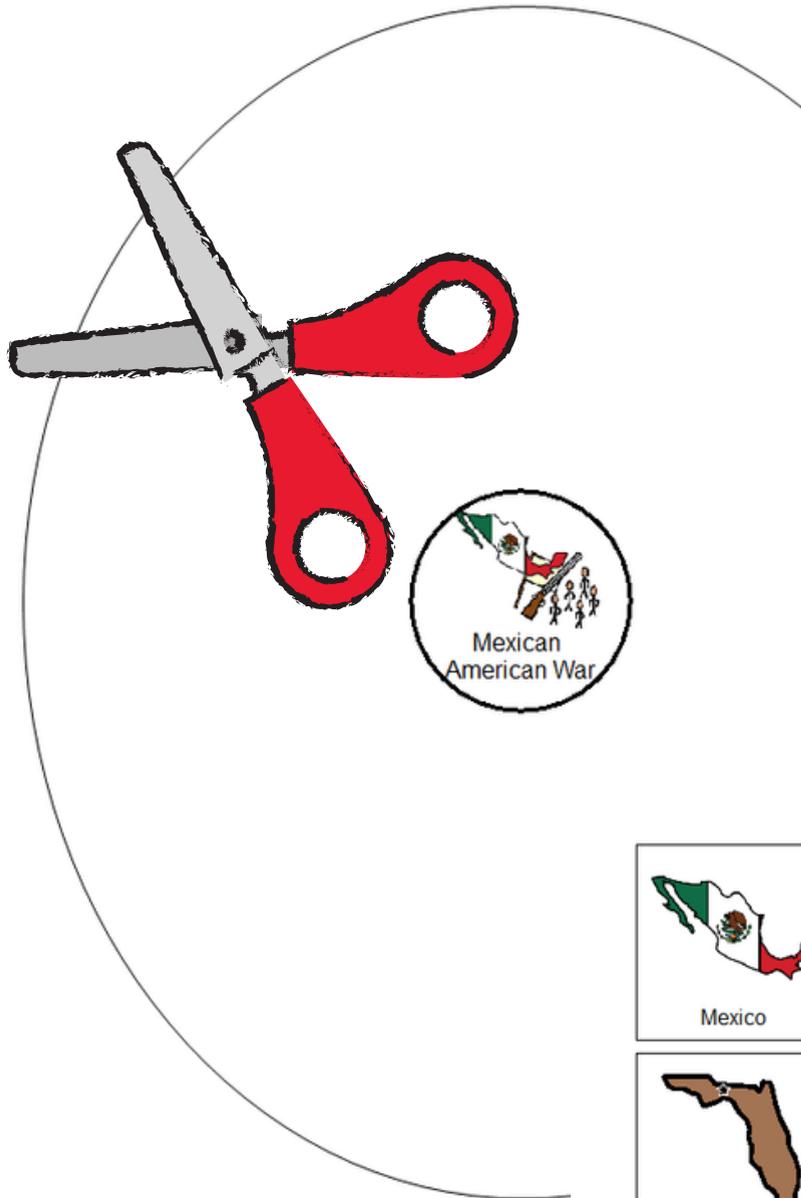
Spanish church built by missionaries to spread Christianity.

Large area in central US that was sold to the US by Napoleon for \$15 million.

President of the US during the Mexican American War.

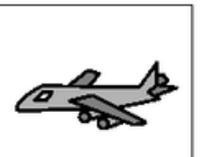
On days 6&7 there is an activity where students will match either the picture to the definition or the definition to the picture (harder).





 Mexico	 Texas	 James K Polk	 Rio Grande border
 Santa Anna	 more southwest area	1846- 1848	 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo



 Mexico	 Texas	 James K Polk	 Lincoln
 Florida	 more southwest area	1846- 1848	 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
 Santa Anna	 jet	 volcano	 Rio Grande border

There are 2 a circle maps.

Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance. There are 2 versions:

- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

1. Color in Texas blue.
2. Color in Mexico red.

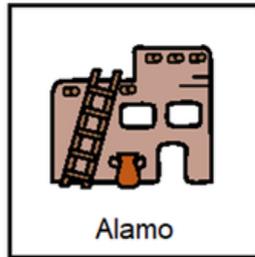


There are is a map that allows students to visualize Texas and Mexico, the main participants in this war. There is a version with colored outlines added.

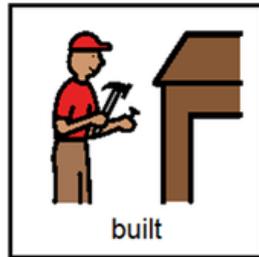


1744

The alamo was built in Texas by missionaries.



Alamo



built



by missionaries

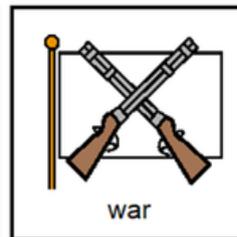


February 1848

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed, ending the Mexican-American War.



treaty



war



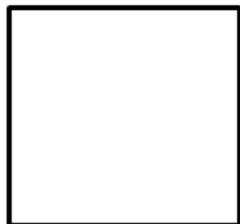
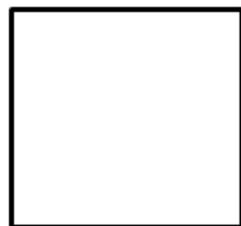
The End

There are 10 large timeline cards. There are instructions on how to utilize these as a small group activity.

# Timeline

1744

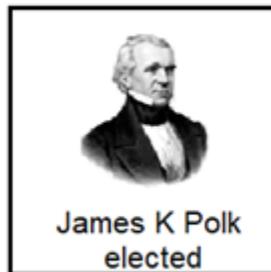
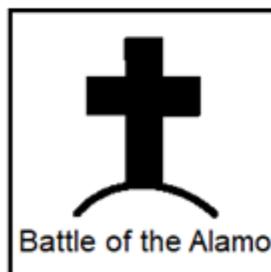
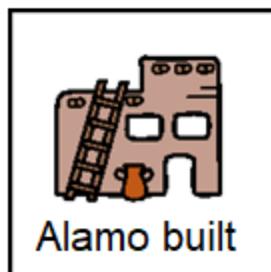
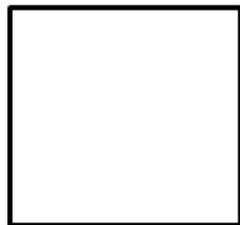
1803



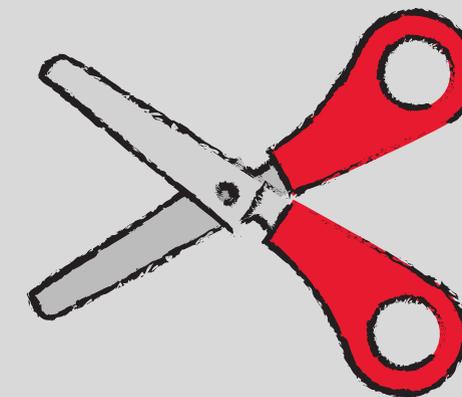
1836

1844

1846-1848



There is a cut and paste version of the timeline as well. An answer key is included.



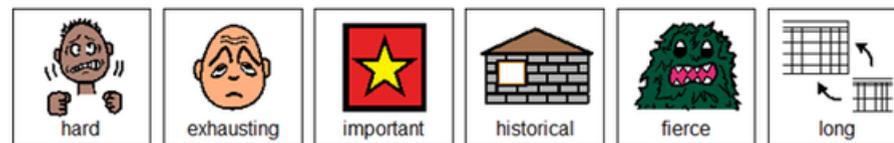
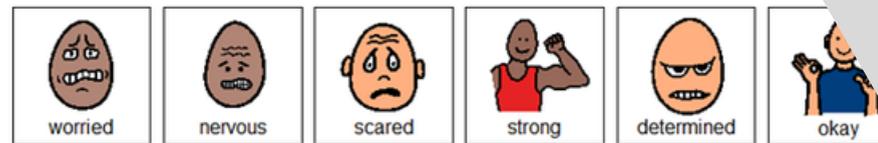
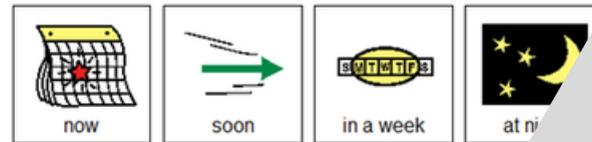
Hello, I am a  in the Alamo in Texas.

We know the Mexicans are coming .

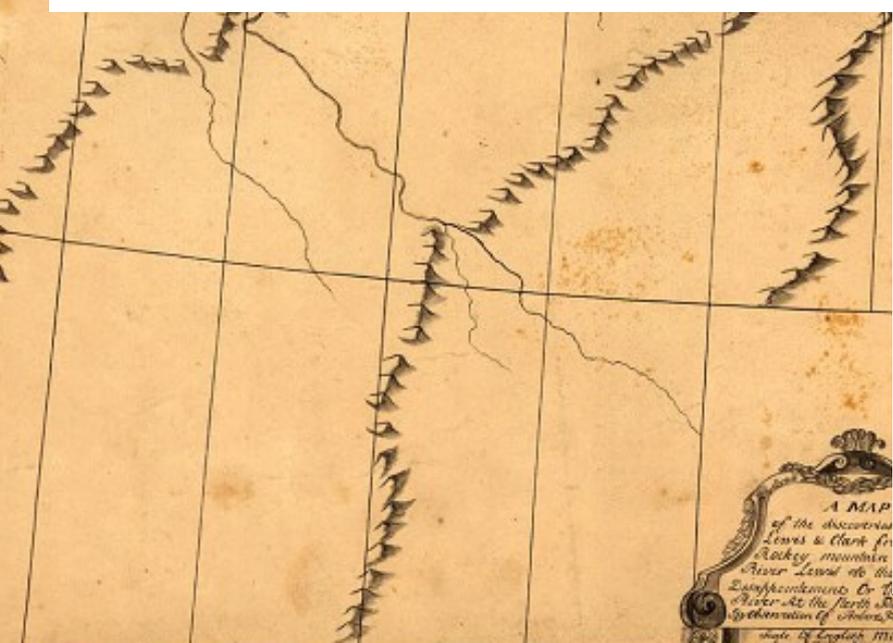
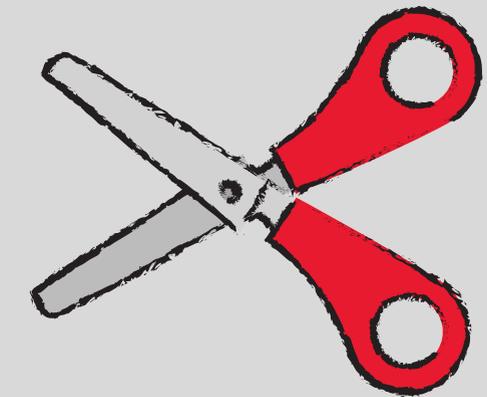
We will be  as we stay and fight for Texas.

But I am .

It will be a  battle.



There is a writing prompt where students write a story about what it would have been like to be at The Battle of the Alamo. This is an errorless activity that students can do more than one time.



# Mexican-American War

	 missionary		 Rio Grande	 Santa Anna
		 Rio Grande	 treaty	 missionary
	 Alamo	 missionary	 James Polk	
		 Santa Anna	 Rio Grande	
		 Alamo	 missionary	
	 Rio Grande		 Santa Anna	

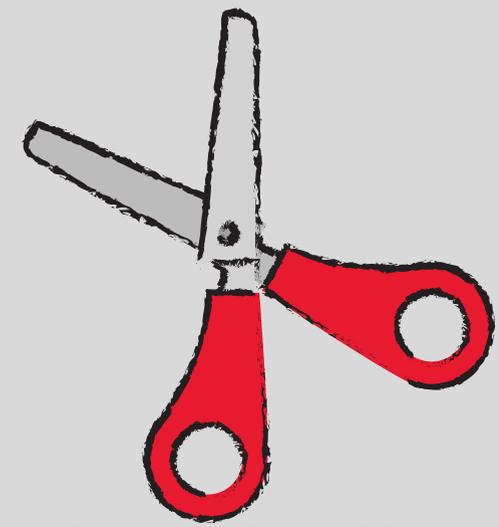
 Santa Anna	 Santa Anna	 Alamo	 Alamo
 Texas	 Mexico	 Mexico	 Mexico

# Mexican-American War

 Santa Anna			 Texas
 Alamo	 Texas		
 Texas	 Santa Anna		 Alamo
 Mexico			

There is a Sudoku puzzle in this unit as well. This is a great way to work with the new vocabulary!!

There are 2 versions plus answer keys.



## Mexican American War

M B D O J M M P K Y O C T D O  
E S K H A I Q W T E F T R F S  
X A Y T M S U A E X Y T E U X  
I N A L E S E L X P Z X A R U  
C T C W S I B A A A B U T R S  
O A F P P O H M S N W X Y R J  
Y A J R O N P O M S E P R X M  
E N P L L A F J P I S N E J W  
W N A N K R L B B O T D M V G  
Q A L O C I B O S N W F A T L  
R F M R L E W P I W A R O M H  
Z A S V I S V E O Z R G W V W  
R I O G R A N D E S D K A I D  
T B E K A N C J K B V U R O D  
R F Y E L O U I S I A N A M Y

missionaries	Louisiana	Santa Anna	James Polk
Rio Grande	expansion	westward	treaty
Mexico	Texas	Alamo	War

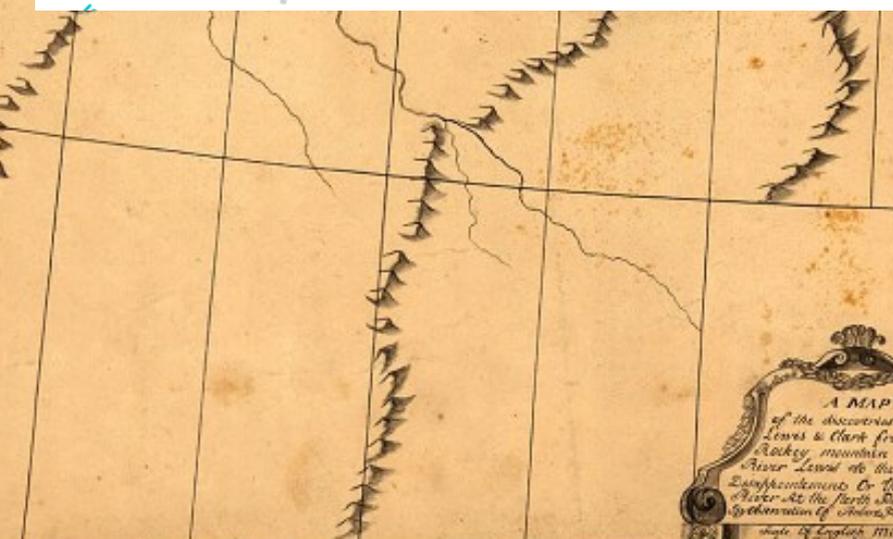


## Mexican American War

M B D O J M M P K Y O C T D O  
E S K H A I Q W T E F T R F S  
X A Y T M S U A E X Y T E U X  
I N A L E S E L X P Z X A R U  
C T C W S I B A A A B U T R S  
O A F P P O H M S N W X Y R J  
Y A J R O N P O M S E P R X M  
E N P L L A F J P I S N E J W  
W N A N K R L B B O T D M V G  
Q A L O C I B O S N W F A T L  
R F M R L E W P I W A R O M H  
Z A S V I S V E O Z R G W V W  
R I O G R A N D E S D K A I D  
T B E K A N C J K B V U R O D  
R F Y E L O U I S I A N A M Y

missionaries	Louisiana	Santa Anna	James Polk
Rio Grande	expansion	westward	treaty
Mexico	Texas	Alamo	War

There is also a word search to work with vocabulary. If your students cannot do a word search, have them highlight the circle words on the answer key.



## Mexican-American War

1. People in the United States wanted to move

2. James K Polk was

of the United States at this time.

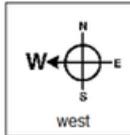
3. Texas wanted to be part of the

4. The United States offered to

Texas from Mexico.

5. President Polk sent

to help protect Texas.



## Battle of the Alamo

1. The Alamo was built by

to bring Christi

2. Texans

Santa Anna as a leader.

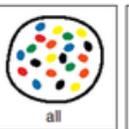
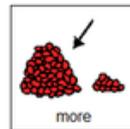
3. Texas wanted to be free from

4. There were

Mexican soldiers than Texan soldiers.

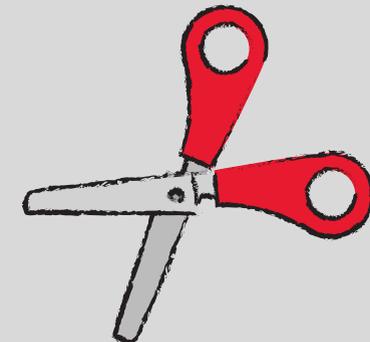
5.

of the Texan soldier were killed in the battle.

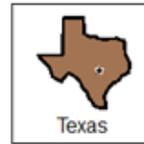


Close worksheet are a great informal assessment. This unit has 10 questions that review the Mexican American War and 5 questions that review the Battle of the Alamo.

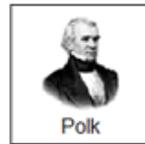
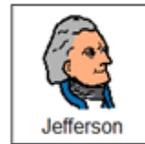
Answer key included.



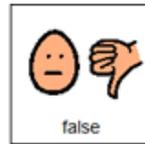
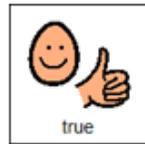
1. The Battle of the Alamo took place in:



2. Who was the leader of the Mexican government and military?



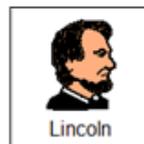
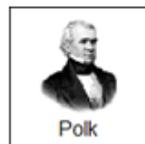
3. True or False. The Texan soldiers were outnumbered at the Alamo by the Mexican soldiers.



4. Texas wanted to be part of:



5. Which American president sent soldiers to help protect Texas in the Mexican-American War?

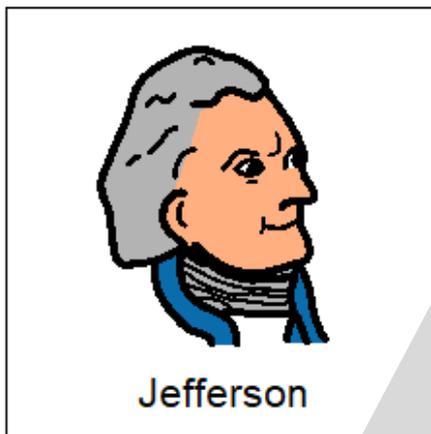
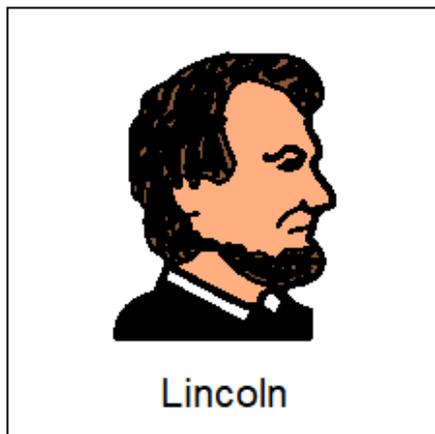
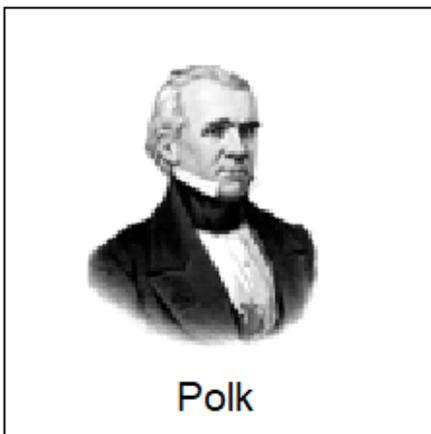


FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has **10 questions** with 3 picture choices for each question.

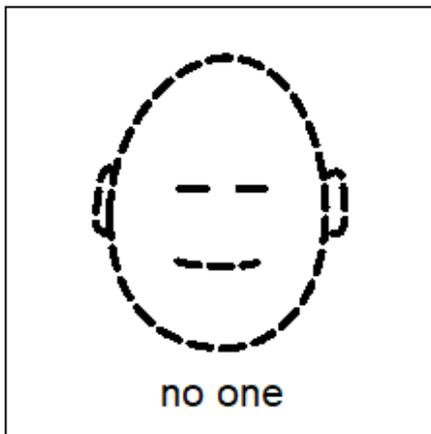
Answer key included.

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 5



Q 6



With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.

1. The Battle of the Alamo took place in:
  - A. Florida
  - B. Texas
  - C. California
2. Who was the leader of the Mexican government and military?
  - A. Santa Anna
  - B. Jefferson
  - C. Polk
3. True or False. The Texan soldiers were outnumbered at the Alamo by the Mexican soldiers.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  - C. I don't know
4. Texas wanted to be part of:
  - A. Canada
  - B. Mexico
  - C. United States
5. Which American president sent soldiers to help protect Texas in the Mexican-American War?
  - A. Polk
  - B. Lincoln
  - C. Jefferson
6. Who won the Mexican American War?
  - A. Mexico
  - B. United States
  - C. No one

*This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.*



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

All of the activities (except the book) comes in color and black and white.

**[Click Here to read more!!](#)**